



Herne Bay Infant School and Seashells Nursery

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4th June 2020

Dear Families

Welcome back to Term 6. I hope that this letter finds you well and that you have had a restful May Bank holiday break, enjoying the wonderful spring sunshine that we have had.

What is the situation in school now?

This term has started in much the same way as the previous term in that our school is only open to some, not all of our children. The government guidance at present continues to be that our school is **open for children of key worker and vulnerable families**, and as an **Infant School**, we start a phased re-opening this term for children in **Nursery** and **Year R**. We miss the children very much, but we must follow the government's guidance to keep everyone in our community safe.

This term, following the guidance from the government regarding the phased re-opening of schools, children are organised into small 'pods' of no more than 15 children. Each pod has designated staff and designated areas of the school to use. There is no mixing between the pods within any area of the school. Each pod has its own entry and exit time from a specified gate and outdoor play and lunchtimes are staggered. Social distancing rules are in place alongside strict handwashing and hygiene routines.

On Wednesday, Nursery staff were very pleased to welcome back some of our Nursery children. The Nursery offer has had to be revised in order to meet the government guidelines and at present we are offering a 15-hour universal offer from Monday morning to Wednesday lunchtime.

From Monday 8th June, we are admitting children in a slow and considered way through a staggered return. This ensures that each pod has time to settle into their health and safety routines before the next group of children arrive, thereby reducing risk to our children and staff.

What is going to happen with school places moving forwards?

If you are identified as **key worker / vulnerable family**, using the government descriptors and you would like your child to return to school, you can **call the school office and request a place**. The office staff will ask you to clarify your job role to ensure that you meet the key worker criteria and we will note that you would like a school place and we will let you know the details for your child's return. **There will be no midweek additions to the established 'pods' under any circumstances.** Registration for starting school the following week will open on a Monday every week and will close on Thursday at 12pm. Only children registered by the previous Thursday will be considered for entry the following week.

If you are a parent of a **Nursery or Year R** child, we will be allowing additional children to attend on a fortnightly basis. You **must register** for a pod place by calling the school office; registration will close on the Thursday at 12 pm prior to the child returning on the Monday. Only children registered by the previous Thursday will be considered for entry on the Monday. **There will be no midweek additions to the established 'pods' under any circumstances.** Please see the table below for details of new entry points for Year R and the date by which your child must be registered.

Register with the school office by:	Date of return to school.
Thursday 18 th June	Monday 22 nd June
Thursday 2 nd July	Monday 6 th July

At present, we do not have a directive for the return of either **Year 1 or Year 2** children and as such there is no plan yet in place for them to return to school. We will continue to follow government guidance and if this situation changes, we will let you know.

If your circumstances have changed and you think that your work now may mean that you are a key worker and you need a place for your child in school, please contact the school office and they will clarify your situation with you.

Home Learning For the foreseeable future we will be continuing to support your child working at home through the bank of weekly activities that are being uploaded onto the school website. New learning ideas will be added to the school website each Monday. Thank you for all the amazing things you have been doing at home. We hope that you have found the activities and suggestions of other on-line resource support valuable. I know that you have all been taking time to support your child's well-being and learning at home during this time.

This term we will be continuing with our 'virtual' learning and each year groups activities will reflect their connector for this term. Teachers will continue to look at the emails of children's work that is being sent in via the year group emails. I know that the staff have really enjoyed seeing the work that children have been doing and that your children have loved seeing the teachers' responses, so please continue to send work / photos into school in this way. Whatever you have been doing, we would love to see it!

In **Nursery**, the connector this term is '**Great Adventures**'. This week they have been on a Jungle Adventure! The email for you to be able to send your work to Emma G and Emma C is nursery@herne-bay.kent.sch.uk

In **Year R**, the connector this term is '**How can we be healthy?**' The Year R children will be exploring lots of different ways of keeping their bodies and minds healthy. The email for you to be able to send your work to Bonnie and Ellie, Andy, Becky, Sally and Amy is yearrteachers@herne-bay.kent.sch.uk

In **Year 1**, this term's connector is '**Why were castles built?**' The Year 1 children will be finding out all about castles and the people that lived in them. If you would like your child to send in any of the activities that they have been doing to Liza, Sam, Sophia and Jane, you can do so by emailing year1teachers@herne-bay.kent.sch.uk

In **Year 2**, this term's connector is '**What is a journey?**'. This week Year 2 children have started their connector by learning about Pirates. If you would like your child to send in any of the activities that they have been doing to Linzi, Beverley, Daniel, Jennifer and Jacqueline, you can do so by emailing year2teachers@herne-bay.kent.sch.uk

We love seeing the children's fantastic learning at home – please keep sending their work in using the email addresses above or by sending us a tweet – it makes us smile!

We can't say yet when we will all be together again; there is still a lot of uncertainty, but rest assured that we'll continue doing our utmost to keep your child learning and our school community connected. Thank you all for your support with the actions that are being taken to keep our school community safe. Please continue to check the website, your emails and our twitter account regularly for updates and take care of each other.

Kind regards



Mrs Helen Day Acting Head teacher

